

Historical houses

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Women Rescued from the Wadsworth House, but Valuable Relics and Bonds are Consumed by Flames

These were the heads on a special dispatch to the *Boston Herald* dated April 23, 1904: "Duxbury lost one of its finest houses last night when the ancestral home of the Wadsworth family on Washington St. was burned. Nothing but 4 brick walls stand this morning to remind one of the colonial homestead of yesterday.

At 10:30 last night Wyman Lincoln, a conductor on the New York, New Haven & Hartford, was returning home when he saw a small tongue of fire licking the shingles on the extension of the house and summoned neighbors. Flames soon burst through the roof and made rapid inroads on the main body of the house. Being short of buckets, ladders and even water, the fire fighters turned to saving household effects.

Meantime the occupants of the house, Mrs. Alexander Wadsworth, her niece, Mrs. Drew, and the housekeeper, were awakened, and Mrs. Wadsworth, who is over 70 years old, was carried from the building by William Facey (Mr. Facey lives with his wife on Surplus St.). Mrs. Drew had in a trunk in her room a bank book and several thousand dollars' worth of bonds, and although Facey made great efforts to save these, he was beaten back by the fire and they were lost."

The Wadsworth house was built in 1798 by Capt. Amos Brown, and was one of the oldest colonial houses of Duxbury. The walls were of brick brought from England by Capt. Brown as ballast for his ship. Capt. Wadsworth, who died at the age of 92 some 3 years ago, and who was a descendant of Capt. Brown, was engaged in the China and East India trade for many years, and the house contained a large collection of valuable relics and bric-a-brac which can never be replaced, and a larger portion of which was a complete loss.